

Fine Arts.

ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE.
(Extracted from the British Queen.)

It is so rarely that we find the weekly press going out of their way to notice subjects connected with building art, that we cannot resist the pleasure of transferring to our pages the following long extracts from the *British Queen*. Of course it will not be supposed that we subscribe to the remarks, which accompany this report, though we know of no material difference, or at any rate have none such that we care to record. It is too grateful to our feelings to find this or any other paper leading the public attention in this direction, to permit us to clasp at the manner of a thing so well intended, and on the whole so well done—it is in strange and pleasing contrast with the most of what we see in the contemporary press. We have wandered over the whole broad sheet of many provincial papers; and several of them crowded with builders' advertisements, and have not found one solitary paragraph devoted to building art. What greater proof can we want of the necessity of a publication like our own, to assert the title of the Builders to their fair share of attention and consideration.

In London we may shortly expect to see commenced the splendid new residences of Lord Francis Egerton (by Mr. Barry), and of the Duke of Cleveland and Lord Wilton in Grosvenor-place. The facade in front of the Mansion of the Marquis of Westminster is already in progress.

A new suspension-bridge is about to be erected from Milbank to Lambeth, and we could swell our list by adding the names of several other public works which we hope to see shortly commenced; amongst others we might mention—

The New Law Courts.

The new Public Offices in Downing-street (by Mr. D. Burton); and what is of more importance, an extensive improvement on the banks of the Thames.

The new Lock Hospital in the Harrow-road is in a forward state, and the Infant Orphan Asylum is wanted is approaching towards completion.

At Richmond the Wesleyan Institution promises to become a creditable building.

At Eton most extensive buildings and improvements are contemplated, for which a splendid subscription has been raised.

At Oxford there is the "Taylor and Randolph Institute," the Protestant Memorial, and the new Fellows' apartments added to University College by Barry.

At Cambridge—The Fitz-William Museum, the new University Library, the County Courts, two new Churches, and the Restoration of the fine Old Round Church.

At Bath—the repaired the Abbey Church, Queen's College, Merchant's Institute, and New Savings' Bank.

At Bristol—Catholic Cathedral, two new Churches, new Railway Station, and Victoria Rooms.

At Liverpool—St. George's-hall and new Assize Court, by Mr. H. L. Elmes. This building is of most chaste, classical and perfect specimen of modern architecture which we have as yet seen.

Liverpool Collegiate Institution, by the same talented architect.

Branewick-buildings, by Messrs. Williams. A very beautiful building.

At Manchester—The Independent College and the Unitarian Chapel, the latter by Mr. Barry.

At Glasgow—The repairs of the Cathedral, the new Court Exchange, the column to Sir Walter Scott, the Memorial to the Duke of Wellington, and the New Cemetery.

At Edinburgh—The Cross to Sir Walter Scott, the Statue to her Majesty, and the Wellington Testimonial.

There never was a period in this country when so many public buildings and national monuments were at the same time in course of erection—works, too, of a character and magnitude which mark this as an important era in English Architecture. Considering, therefore, that a complete list of them could not fail to be acceptable to the majority of our readers, we subjoin the following:—

In London we behold the New Houses of Parliament, the Royal Exchange, British Museum, Nelson Column (and the improvements in Trafalgar-square, now carrying on under the able direction of Mr. C. Barry).

Hungerford-bridge.

Terminus at London-bridge for the Dover and Brighton Railway, at the cost of £60,000.

New Club in St. James's-street.

New Front to Crosby Hall, in Bishopsgate-street.

The Catholic Cathedral in St. George's-fields (by Mr. Welby Pugin).

New Churches at Canterbury, Broadway (Westminster), and at Kenish Town, displaying considerable architectural beauty, and some twelve others without any such pretensions.

STATUES.

We find two to the Duke of Wellington, by Wyatt and Weeks, both in a forward state.

One to William IV., by Nason, to be placed on the north side of New London Bridge.

Likewise to Admirals Viscount Exmouth, Lord De Saumarez, and Sir Sydney Smith, by McDouall, Steele, and Kirby.

To Lord Holland, the Earl of Leicester, and Sir David Wilkie; and we are gratified to be able to state that it is in contemplation to open a subscription forthwith, for the purpose of raising funds towards the erection of an equestrian statue to the memory of the late popular Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Lord Hill.

We can also add that Sir Robert Peel will (in consequence of what passed towards the close of the last session, on Mr. Benjamin Hauss's motion) feel himself justified in proposing public monuments to the memory of those distinguished civilians, Mr. Pitt, Sir Humphrey Davy, and Sir Walter Scott.

But perhaps the most striking buildings are those being erected by the English Roman Catholics, both as regards magnificence of design and beauty of execution; buildings of which very little is generally known. The most remarkable are St. Barnabas at Nottingham (a superb edifice); the Cistercian Monastery of St. Bernard, in Leicestershire; the Benedictine Priory of St. Gregory, Downside, near Bath; Hospital of St. John, near Alton (built at the expense of Lord Shrewsbury); the new Catholic Church at Derby; and the recent additions to Stonyhurst, near Preston.

We believe that the principal merit of these really imposing edifices is due to Mr. Welby Pugin, a gentleman who may certainly be regarded at present as the finest architectural decorator.

Catholic churches of great beauty have also been erected at Dudley, at Barry, by Mr. J. Harper, of York (very good), Pontreiff, Mableborough, Manchester, Southampton, Keighley, Knaiworth, and St. Oswald's, near Liverpool.

Our Church Building Societies cannot too soon avail themselves of the talents of Mr. Pugin.

Having now drawn public attention to the unprecedented encouragement which these numerous and extensive works hold out to our modern architects, we will conclude by expressing an earnest hope that they will soon attain to French or German excellence.

Our determination is to make known, foster, and uphold *notre talent*, but not at the sacrifice of *frank*. We have seen (and we are grieved to write) few buildings in this country which can be at all compared with those at Munich, Berlin, and, we fear, we must add, Paris. We will not, however, allow their architectural beauties to *dash* our eyes too much; nor the painful recollection of the designs for the New Houses of Parliament and the Nelson Testimonial to *kill* our hopes as to the future.

One of the most agreeable features of the present day, is the respect paid by the living to the memory of the departed great. This is an age of testimonials. We wish our *notre talent* to be equal to the exertions required of them. Let them, then, compare their own designs exhibited in the National Gallery and Waterloo-place, with those submitted at Berlin and Paris, as designs for monuments to Frederick the Great and Napoleon. They cannot but benefit by studying them.

THE CLERGYMAN BLACKSMITH.

We have been quite charmed with the little narrative which follows. We suppose Mr. Hurst was a whitesmith as well as a blacksmith, and if so, was one of us. We rejoice, as every builder will rejoice, in the appreciation of his merits, and join in grateful thanks to Dr. Malby for the generous and delicate exercise of his patronage and friendship.

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM AND THE BLACKSMITH.—At the last ordination held by Dr. Malby, the Bishop of Durham, in Auckland Castle, one of the successful candidates was a Mr. Blythe Hurst, who until then, and from boyhood, had followed the occupation of a blacksmith in the village of Wingham, in the county of Durham. The circumstances under which this humble but most deserving artisan has been thus suddenly unearthed as it were, and raised to the rank of a clergyman of the Church of England, are extremely interesting, and able honourable in the highest degree to both parties. Mr. Blythe Hurst is a native of Wingham, and was put to the trade of a blacksmith at the early age of eleven years. At that time he had received little education. He could read the Scriptures, but could write only imperfectly. After he went to trade, he attended Archbishop Thorpe's Sunday-school, where he made some progress. Writing, however, was not taught in the school. When he had entered

his terms, we mind was directed to the study of languages, beginning with his own. Afterwards he acquired as others, viz. Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, and French. The immediate cause of his attracting the notice of Dr. Malby arose out of his having written a pamphlet, entitled *Christianity as Protestant*, which he caused to be printed and published. The rectory of Wingham, Mr. Wardell, enclosed a copy of this pamphlet to the Bishop of Durham, as the work of a common man, a labouring blacksmith. The Bishop wrote back, expressing the great satisfaction with which he had read the book, and observing that if it was written by a common man, it was the production of no common mind, and he was anxious to learn some further particulars of the author's life. These were not mere words of compliment. The Bishop was in earnest, and wrote to Mr. Douglas, the rector of Wharfedale, asking him to see Mr. Hurst, and ascertain his ability to make a regular student of his acquirements. Mr. Douglas visited him accordingly, and found him selling the whole day long to support his family. He pursued his studies while at work, having his lamp on his "flame-stone," a stone suspended before the eyes of the workman to protect them from the flames. Mr. Douglas covered with him, and subsequently made a report to the Bishop. His Lordship next wrote to Mr. Davis, the rector of Gillingham on the subject of Mr. Hurst. Mr. Davis visited Mr. Hurst, at Wingham, and stated the result in a letter to the Bishop. Dr. Malby afterwards corresponded with Mr. Hurst, and advised him as to his course of reading, recommending to his attention the most suitable books. His Lordship did more than this—he enclosed Mr. Hurst the means of following out his recommendations. Some time afterwards, the Bishop having occasion to visit Newcastle, he had a personal interview with Mr. Hurst, and arrangements were made for his ordination. When the time for this ceremony was at hand, Mr. Hurst received a kind letter from Auckland Castle, intimating that apartments had been provided for his accommodation. His Lordship also presented him with a silk gown, through Mr. Wardell. His reception at Auckland Castle was kind in the extreme. He is represented as having passed his examination with great credit to himself, and much to the satisfaction of his examiners. It is customary for the candidates for ordination to dine with the Bishop; on this occasion the Bishop, on looking round the room for Mr. Hurst, found that he was at the opposite end. He asked him to come to him, meet him, took his arm, and introduced him to Mrs. Malby and all the ladies. When they met in the dining-room, he said, "You must come and sit beside me." It is believed that through the Bishop's patronage Mr. Hurst will shortly enter upon his ministerial duties as curate of Gillingham.

Such is the narrative, slightly abbreviated, of the circumstances which have resulted in the promotion of a most deserving man to a position more favourable to the exercise of his extraordinary acquirements, whilst it is fitted to reward the industry and perseverance by which alone they could have been achieved, as these circumstances were recently related by a Mr. Laycock at a public dinner in the county of Durham, in profusion as a toast "The Bishop of Durham and the clergy of the diocese." It is evident that we meet with such an extraordinary instance of unswerving constancy and devotion, exhibited in the pursuit of learning under the most adverse circumstances, as this displayed on the part of Mr. Blythe Hurst, not only capable of being so well authenticated. It is not less rare that such unexampled merit meets with any thing like an appropriate reward from those who are best able to confer it. The narrative, in fine, is one which exhibits both parties in a light equally honourable, and is calculated by further disposition to generate in the encouragement of industry and industry in every laudable pursuit, however much such pursuits may be thwarted by circumstances of an adverse or unfavourable kind.

IMPROVEMENTS IN WINSTON GREAT PARK.—It having been suggested to the Wreeds and Forests that an ornamental palisading, in lieu of the present iron fence, which now divides that portion of the Great Park in the Long Walk known as the double gates, would be a great improvement, especially when viewed from the Castle, the Commissioners immediately decided upon the suggestion being carried into effect, and tenders were requested to be sent in for the execution of the work. The palisading will be nearly 170 feet in length, with an ornamental gate in the centre of the Long Walk, embellished in the Elizabethan style, to harmonize with the architectural character of the keep's tower. On either side will be two small ornamental gates for foot passengers, the whole of which will be kiln-dried, and then painted in imitation of oak-wood. The pillars, which will be nearly ten feet in height, and ornamented, will be of old English oak, and the structure will be completed in the course of next month.